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Dearing House
Tuscaloosa, Ala.
Tuscaloosa Co

^{ALA}
HABS No. ~~25~~-228
HABS
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63-TUSLO
15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

DEARING PLACE
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Ownership:

Present Owner: Dearing Estate.

Previous Owners; Alexander Dearing.

Date of Erection: About 1835.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Alexander Dearing.

Present Condition: Good.

Number of Stories: Two.

Materials of Construction: Greek Revival; two story masonry;
Ionic columns; on three sides; interior very ornate.

Eight columns on front and five on side.

Other Existing Records:

See: Birmingham News, June 24, 1934.

"ALABAMA POSSESSOR OF RICH HERITAGE"
By E. Walter Burkhardt, A. P. I.

See: Birmingham News, September 9, 1934.

"WEST ALABAMA RICH IN OLD HOMES"
By E. Walter Burkhardt, A.P.I.

See: Birmingham News, August 12, 1934.

"UNIVERSITY ANTE-BELLUM CHARM LINGERS"
By Varian Feare, (Mrs. E. W. Burkhardt.)

Source of Material: E. Walter Burkhardt

Compiled by: Katherine Floyd, Auburn, Ala.

Approved: E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer, HABS
12/2/1936

ADDENDUM TO
DEARING-SWAIM HOUSE
(Spence House)
(Dearing House)
2111 Fourteenth St.
Tuscaloosa
Tuscaloosa County
Alabama

HABS No. AL-228

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WRITTEN HISTORICAL & DESCRIPTIVE DATA

HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
P.O. Box 37127
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

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ADDENDUM TO
DEARING-SWAIM HOUSE
(Spence House)
(Dearing House)
(Page 2)

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

DEARING-SWAIM HOUSE
(Spence House)
(Dearing House)

HABS No. AL-228

Location: 2111 14th Street; 14th Street and 21st Avenue,
Tuscaloosa, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama.

Date of
Construction: 1835-36

Description: This two-story brick and stucco Greek Revival
residence features an Ionic columned portico
extending about three sides. The interior
features a circular staircase, elaborate friezes
and black Italian marble mantles.

Project
Information: This report is based on written documentation
donated by the Birmingham Historical Society,
reformatted to HABS/HAER guidelines.

Historical
Overview: The Dearing House was built for Alexander B.
Dearing (b. 1800 North Carolina, a prominent
Tuscaloosa merchant and brother of Capt. James
Dearing) c. 1835. One of Alexander Dearing's
daughters married Dr. W. S. Wyman and lived in the
house before and after the Civil War. Legend
tells that Union raiders spared the house in 1865
after the mistress of the house fed her last
setting of turkey eggs to hungry soldiers who
appeared at her door. Major James Spence
purchased the house in 1888 and in 1919 the S. G.
Swain family moved in.

Sources
Consulted:

HABS
Tuscaloosa Ct. Site Survey, 107
Gamble, The Alabama Catalog, 353
Tuscaloosa Landmarks